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**Sent:** Tue 6/7/2016 1:18:46 PM  
**Subject:** Hoosick falls pfoa

## **New York Post: Blood test reveals upstate couple's toxicity is off the charts**

By Kirstan Conley

June 7, 2016

ALBANY — At least two residents of a tiny upstate village with tainted water have 50 times the national average of a toxic chemical in their blood.

The state Health Department tested about 2,000 people for PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, in rural Hoosick Falls, 40 miles northeast of Albany, and results began trickling in over the weekend.

"The average person up there is about 11 times the national average," said Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, who represents the village.

But one couple, Harold and Marion Stevens, told News 10 ABC TV that their numbers were off the charts — 159 and 104 micrograms per liter, respectively.

Nationwide readings average 2.08, compared with 23.5 in Hoosick Falls.

Studies have shown PFOA is likely linked to kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease and other ailments.

After several locals died of rare cancers, residents launched an effort to find out if something in the water, perhaps from nearby plastics-manufacturing sites, was making them sick.

State and local officials knew of the situation a year before the federal Environmental Protection Agency told residents to stop drinking the water last November.

Politico reported last week that the village, Rensselaer County and the state continued assuring residents their water was safe.

By Friday, McLaughlin demanded US Attorney Preet Bharara investigate.

"The Cuomo administration took affirmative steps to deny the public information," he said.

"They pushed back against the EPA. The Cuomo administration claimed they were following the EPA guidelines when they were not. In my mind, that's a crime."

Administration officials say the state Health Department was helping with filtration and testing and followed the EPA guidelines.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie pledged in February to hold hearings, but now says they aren't needed.

"Our priority right now is to ensure the people of Hoosick Falls and around the state have clean drinking water and that issues are being addressed," said his spokesman, Michael Wyland. "If we still feel the need to look at it through hearings in the future, we can do that."

DOH spokesman Jim Plastiras said, "The state followed EPA guidance and has responded aggressively by installing a new village drinking water system [and] initiating a blood-testing program."

### **Hoosick Falls blood test results continue to show above average levels**

By Lindsay Nielsen

Video: <http://news10.com/2016/06/06/hoosick-falls-blood-test-results-continue-to-show-above-average-levels/>

June 6, 2016, 5:45 pm

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. (NEWS10) – Residents in Hoosick Falls have waited nearly four months to get their results, but many of them were shocked to by the numbers of how much PFOA is in their blood.

"I thought I would be a little bit lower just because I've limited my exposure over the last couple years. Prior to that, I have never been a huge water drinker," Michael Hickey said.

Hickey, the man who discovered the PFOA water contamination in Hoosick Falls, received his blood test results in the mail on Monday like many others in his company. His number is 42.1 ppb compared to the national average of 2.08 ppb.

There's something else that shocked him Monday even after all the research he's done. He says he wasn't prepared for high levels of PFOA in the blood of young children in his community.

"The four and six year old that was posted on social media was extremely surprising to me. It's scary because of how much I do know about it."

NEWS10 ABC's Lindsay Nielsen spoke with Maryann Jacobs who has lived in the village for about nine years.

"We do matter, we do count."

Just an hour later, she called back crying saying she just received her family's PFOA blood results.

"I'm totally shocked. I didn't expect it and at the same point, the first one I open up is mine and it's high. It's 148 and here I am shaking trying to open up my daughters and there's no words."

Jacobs was in shock, sad, and furious.

"There's no apology here. There's no oh next step is do this. No we have to go to these meetings and go here and go there and listen to all this bs."

She's now trying to figure out how she will explain this to her children.

As for Hickey, he misses his father who passed away from kidney cancer, sparking his investigation into the water. He says he hopes he's made a positive change.

"To have a healthier community moving forward and that's something I'll be proud of at some point. That's what my dad would have been proud of me for. So I hope that's what the overall goal is.

On Friday, the New York Health Department (DOH) released some of the Hoosick Falls blood test results.

To date, the DOH has analyzed more than 2,000 blood samples from people living in Hoosick Falls. During a phone call on Friday, the DOH said the results are what they expected considering the degree of exposure in the community.

Anyone with questions is advised to speak to their healthcare provider.

The Health Department says they will continue take blood and those results will continue to come out as well.

### **Hoosick Falls residents get PFOA blood tests back, now what?**

WNYT

Asa Stackel

Created: 06/06/2016 6:19 PM

HOOSICK FALLS -- Most Hoosick Falls residents who had their blood tested for PFOA should have gotten their results back by Monday. But now that they have those results, many are wondering what they mean. That group includes Gordon Metcalfe, his letter said his blood contained 100 times more PFOA than the average American's.

"It really didn't mean that much to me. I guess it could be high. But there's nothing they

could really do about it anyway," said Metcalfe.

PFOA exposure has been linked to cancer. But the state health department says knowing your PFOA blood level, even if it's relatively high, can't tell you if you have or will have health problems.

The EPA is the one that started sounding alarms about PFOA in water, so we called them to see what high blood levels could mean.

They referred us to the CDC. And press relations specialists there referred us back to state health. (The CDC sent us these links after our deadline

[http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/health\\_effects\\_pfc.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/health_effects_pfc.html) and

[http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/docs/pfas\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf) )

State health said in an email they expected the higher blood levels, and they would have an official for us to speak with tomorrow. You can see the full statement at the end of the article.

The average Hoosick Falls resident came back with 24 parts per billion PFOA in his blood, about 11 times higher than the average American.

Older people tend to have more PFOA in their blood. State health says time decreases your PFOA level. Every three years, levels are split in half. That means Gordon is just waiting.

"Standing here talking to you. It's just a matter of time it gets through your system. There's really nothing you can do about it," said Metcalfe.

Local physicians got a copy of their patient's blood test results too. State health advises people to talk to their doctor if they're worried.

We also wondered about PFOA levels in donated blood. What if this cancer-linked chemical was put in you by a blood transfusion. The Red Cross says FDA regulates testing performed on blood donations. And they don't test for PFOA.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EMAIL RESPONSE BELOW:

Residents who had their blood tested for PFOA have a number of options available to them:

- 1) We are encouraging them to discuss their levels with their health care provider
- 2) DOH healthcare professional will continue to be available at the HAYC3 Armory on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2 pm to 8 pm) and Saturdays (10 am to 2 pm)
- 3) In addition to in person meetings, there is a hotline for residents to call by phone Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.
- 4) Physicians and experts with environmental exposure expertise from the Mount

Sinai Hospital in New York City are available by telephone to help answer questions about results.

5) We will be making additional context and information available on [health.ny.gov/Hoosick](http://health.ny.gov/Hoosick)

What do the levels mean?

Blood levels are expected to be higher than the national average in those people living in communities where there is a known exposure in drinking water, like in Hoosick Falls. The blood levels for Hoosick Falls residents are generally consistent with other communities with similar exposure levels. Preliminary data indicate that people living in the community the longest have higher levels of PFOA in their blood than those who have lived in the area for a shorter period of time. However, it is too soon to say how long exposures may have been occurring.

He wants to know more about the research, particularly those studies that say there is cause for concern of health effects from PFOA?

Some studies link PFOA to certain health effects, including certain types of cancer, which is why DOH is making sure residents have additional information and access to outside experts who can help them understand their results.

Times Union

### **PFOA results just a start**

By TU Editorial Board on June 7, 2016 at 3:09 AM

From the beginning, state government seems to have approached the drinking water contamination in and around the village of Hoosick Falls and the town of Petersburg more as a problem of public relations than public health. As blood test results now trickle in, that unfortunately still seems the case.

We understand that Gov. Andrew Cuomo and those around him may see a political downside to any focus on this issue. But this is about addressing the health of the residents who have been drinking polluted water for years, not protecting political futures.

The initial handling of the contamination of the village's water supply and private wells with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a suspected carcinogen, was too casual, and the village and state took too long to respond. Hoosick Falls residents should not have had to press their government to address their valid concerns.

Now they deserve as full a picture as health professionals can provide, not limited information and carefully managed disclosures – more than a letter telling them how contaminated their blood is and private chats with a bureaucrat.

They – and other New Yorkers who could find themselves in a similar situation someday –

deserve more than only what Mr. Cuomo's office thinks they should be told.

They deserve to know details of what the state's testing found. They deserve hard data – appropriately anonymized to respect individual privacy – so they can assess the testing, and whether there are geographic or demographic patterns. Individual results and general information on averages are inadequate when an entire community is affected.

They deserve a public meeting. One-on-one talks with a Health Department representative don't take the place of a forum at which people can hear questions asked and answered that perhaps they hadn't thought of.

They deserve a public probe, too, into how this situation has been handled. We've called before for legislative hearings. Citizens need to understand why they were kept in the dark, and what could be done better the next time the state confronts a toxic emergency.

And they deserve answers as soon as they're available. Residents have waited some four months for blood test results, a release that seems to have been delayed by the governor's office.

Look at what has happened since this came to light: Public and private water systems are being made safer. Two companies have agreed to pick up the costs. The state and federal governments have updated and raised the standards for PFOA contamination.

We don't yet know what more needs to be done. But it seems we'd be far more likely to figure that out if Gov. Cuomo's administration thought less about the governor's re-election in 2018 and more about what it's like to be a resident of Hoosick Falls or Petersburg in 2016.

WRGB

### **Blood test results alarm Hoosick Falls residents**

By Hubert Wiggins Monday, June 6th 2016

HOOSICK FALLS--Concerns mounting in Hoosick Falls as more and more residents receive results from their PFOA blood tests.

"I was absolutely shocked when I saw my levels were 266 which is extraordinarily high in comparison to what I have been seeing," said Loreen Hackett.

Loreen Hackett just learned her results today. Her level is about 130 times higher than what the C-D-C says is the general population's average.

Her grandchildren's results arrived today as well.

"They were high too they are 6 and 4 there numbers were 142 and 117," she said.

Laura Peabody came to the armory hoping to talk with department of health staff after she and her daughter got their results, but DOH workers not there.

Peabody says her daughters PFOA level is 31 micrograms per liter.

"We're concerned about the numbers of my daughter who is only 9 years old, more concerned about her numbers than mine," she said.

Officials with the department of health will be at the Armory Tuesday from 2 to 8 pm.

Times Union

## **NYS sends \$178,000 to Hoosick Falls for water rebates**

### **State funds arrive as residents learn about their PFOA test results**

By Kenneth C. Crowe II

Published 7:34 pm, Monday, June 6, 2016

Hoosic Falls

The state wired \$178,478.87 Monday to the village of Hoosick Falls to reimburse water users because of PFOA contamination of the municipal water supply.

The payment was approved Monday morning and sent to the village, said Sean Mahar, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

"This is to pay for a rebate to the water users," Mahar said. "The funds were furnished per the governor's directive."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced in March that residents would receive reimbursement for up to six months of water bills.

The state signed a consent order Friday with Saint-Gobain and Honeywell Friday to address the contamination of municipal water and private wells by PFOA, the abbreviation for perfluorooctanoic acid, in Hoosick Falls and the town of Hoosick. The companies' facilities are considered to be the source of the contaminants.

Residents will continue to have access to bottled water.

PFOA, which is considered carcinogenic, is used to manufacture non-stick surfaces such as Teflon and in other processes.

"We understand that the Consent Orders require the companies to negotiate with the Village for costs related to the presence of PFOA in the municipal water supply. We are actively pursuing that agreement in order to ensure local taxpayers do not bear the costs of

a situation they did not create," Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge said in a statement issued Friday.

The arrival of the rebate funds comes as residents are receiving the results of their blood tests for PFOA contamination.

The results started arriving Saturday. Many residents are posting their results on social media sites as they receive them.

There also has been PFOA contamination of public and private water supplies in the town of Petersburg, just south of Hoosick. The Taconic manufacturing plant is considered to be the PFOA source in that community.

The Intelligencer

### **Boyle calls for congressional hearings on water contamination**

Posted: Monday, June 6, 2016 6:22 pm

By Kyle Bagenstose, staff writer

Are Flint, Michigan-style congressional hearings needed on unregulated chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)?

Congressman Brendan Boyle, D-13, of Philadelphia, thinks so.

He announced in a press release Monday that he was calling for congressional hearings to "investigate threats to groundwater contamination" at more than 600 former and active military sites across the country, including in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

"While I appreciate the EPA's heightened scrutiny of these contaminants and the Navy's commitment to monitoring wells and taking implicated wells offline, I believe officials have thus far failed to present adequate information to the public regarding the latest science and known health risks posed to our community," Boyle said in the release, discussing actions taken locally.

The subject of an ongoing investigation by this news organization, PFOA and PFOS have contaminated and forced the closing of approximately 16 public and 140 private drinking water wells in Warminster, Warrington and Horsham over the past two years.

"Concern among Horsham's residents has significantly increased since the (Environmental Protection Agency) tightened its health advisory guideline for these contaminants in our drinking water," Boyle said in the release. "A growing body of studies links these contaminants to various forms of cancer, thyroid disease, and other complications."

The contaminants are believed to have entered the region's groundwater from the use of firefighting foams at a trio of military bases in the area: the former Naval Air Station Joint



Reserve Base in Willow Grove, the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the current Horsham Air Guard Station.

The chemicals are unregulated but are the subject of health advisories issued by the EPA. In 2009, that agency set advised limits of 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA and 0.2 ppb for PFOS to protect against short-term exposures. Last month, the agency lowered those limits to 0.07 ppb for combined exposure to protect against health issues from lifetime consumption.

The establishment — and lowering — of health advisory levels have put the chemicals on the radar of communities and regulators nationwide. Boyle addressed this issue in his release, stating that the Department of Defense had released a list of 664 military sites across the country where firefighting foams containing the chemicals may have been used.

The release stated Boyle had submitted his request to the chairman and ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, of which he is a member. Congressman Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican, is the committee's chairman.

Boyle further stated he viewed there was a "lack of urgency" on the part of the Department of Defense that "undermined" the investigation and cleanup efforts.

The Navy operates a base closure program that oversees the shuttered warfare center and joint reserve base, while the National Guard Bureau operates the Air Guard Station. Combined, the two departments already have agreed to pay approximately \$19 million for cleanup operations and investigation in the region. The figure could rise following the EPA's release of updated health advisories last month.

The Navy has conducted several public information meetings since the contamination first was discovered in summer 2014, including two well-attended meetings last month that included representatives for a variety of local, state and federal officials. Some attendees criticized the meetings as being chaotic and ineffective, while Navy representatives defended the meetings' format as the best way to answer the most questions.

(File) A map of some of the wells contaminated in the area is pointed out during a public information session in August 2014 about water quality in Warminster.

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